London Eng Feb 26 1863

My dear Garrison

I promised last week to send you an account of the Soiree to be given this week, in honor of our noble friend George Thompson Esq. It took place last evening agreeably to the printed announcement which I send to you, The Spacious dining Saloon of the Whittington Club Rooms was filled by the admirers of this distinguished Philanthropist, Some friends they were, as my word, look & gesture testified. The Right Hon Lord Lyndhurst, a Peer of the Realm, presided, with great elegance & dignity, honoring himself as much as his distinguished guest by his presence, and by the noble testimony which he bore to the Valuable Services covering a period of more than thirty Years, which George Thompson

had rendered to humanity, It was
good to see a man of his standing
in society
in such a place & to hear him
utter sentiments so true & so well
deserved. Encomiums equally strong
were offered by other members of
Parliament, & by Clergymen & Citizens
who were present; & from 5½ o'clock
until past 10, there was no lack
of good Speakers; & when the hour
for adjournment arrived, several
who were expected to speak,
& were prepared to do so, were
obliged to leave without being heard,
The same Spirit, ~~that~~ seemed to pervade the
whole assembly, every one wishing
to hear his or her appreciation of
the ardous, self-denying & valuable
services of him whom they had
assembled to honor. There was
nothing read—nothing said for effect,
but all the proceedings were characterized by that spontaneous, outgushing, overflow of soul, which
comes only from full hearts; it was

emphatically an affectional
matter. The ~~eloquent~~ address
presented to the honored guest of
the evening, setting forth in terse
but beautiful language, the
eminent services which, for a
generation, he had rendered to humanity,
was pervaded with a tone of
affectionate remembrance. While
the address was being read, a
superb copy of the same, nearly
two feet square, executed
with a pen, upon vellum, in the
most exquisite style, and encased
in a rich gilt frame, was brought
into the hall & placed in front of
the dais. It was welcomed by a
storm of applause. As a work of
art, it is surpassingly beautiful, and
is a tribute, in every respect,
which our noble friend,
& his children & children may well
prize. That which gave the zest
to the evening was the sketch,
which Mr Thompson gave us
of the years of his life,
especially
referred to in the address. It was

modest, touching, beautiful; and the moist eyes of his auditors bore eloquent testimony to the feelings which he had stirred within them, by a simply straightforward narration of services rendered, & sacrifices made, without expectation of honor, reward, or emolument.

But I have not time to enlarge, and I need not. The meeting was in every sense a great success, & I believe will be followed, before long, by another, to be called by those who are determined that a life spent as Mr. Thompson's has been shall be made comfortable in its decline, by suitable & substantial pecuniary considerations. The Newspapers gave but a bare outline of the doings of the meeting. The whole proceedings will be immediately issued in pamphlet form, as they deserve to be preserved. You will doubtless be able to enrich the columns of your excellent paper, from this valuable Document. Which you will receive by early mail. Your friend John P. Jewett.